which their written memorandum closed, which was equivalent to saying that he proposed to remain at liberty to reinforce the forts, and to change their " relative military status/'—that is, to transfer Anderson from Moultrie to Sumter,—whenever he might deem it advisable to do so, although he did not at that moment have any intention of taking such action.

At the close of the interview, however, the President, according to the narrative of the representatives, " said in substance: ' After all, this is a matter of honor among gentlemen, I do not know that any paper or writing is necessary. We understand each other.' One of the delegation, just before leaving the room, remarked; 'Mr. President, you have determined to let things remain as they are, and not to send reinforcements; but suppose that you were hereafter to change your policy for any reason, what then ? That would put us who are willing to use our personal influence to prevent any attack upon the forts before commissioners are sent on to Washington in rather an embarrassing position.' 'Then/ said the President, ' I would first return you this paper.'"[1]

This is stated by the representatives to be " a full and exact account of what passed between the President and the delegation." There is no reason to doubt it; and certainly there is no

evidence to be found in this account of any agreement on either side until we come to the promise of the President to return them the paper which they had given him, in case he should " for any reason change his policy." Why the paper should be returned in this event is

[1] i W. R., 126. See *ante*, p. 33, for a copy of the " paper."